(Ireland.)

A

B I L L

For the better regulating the Office of Conſtable, in *Ireland*.

Note.—*The Figures in the Margin denote the Number of the Folios in the written Copy.*

Preamble.

1 WHEREAS it will tend to the due enforcing of the Law and preſervation of the Peace, to put the office of Conſtable, in *Ireland*, on a better footing:

And whereas the number of Conſtables ought to be different in different Counties and Baronies, according to the different extent and various circumſtances thereof;

Grand Juries may appoint Conſtables, not exceeding a certain number in each Barony.

Be it therefore Enacted by the KING's Moſt Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Conſent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this preſent Parliament aſſembled, and by the Authority of the ſame, That it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſeveral Grand Juries of Counties at large in *Ireland*, at the Aſſizes thereof, to make and appoint any number of Conſtables not exceeding in each Barony or Half Barony within each County, together with a Chief 2 Conſtable, wherever a Chief Conſtable has hitherto been appointed or ſhall hereafter be thought neceſſary; who, when appointed, ſhall be in lieu of all other Conſtables, the High Conſtables for collecting the Public Money alone excepted.

Conſtables ſo appointed, to be ſubject to the direction of the Juſtices of the Peace

And be it Enacted, That the Conſtables appointed or continued purſuant to this Act, ſhall at all times aid and aſſiſt in preſerving the Peace, and executing the Law within every ſuch Barony or Half Barony, and ſhall obey ſuch lawful directions as they ſhall from time to time receive from any Magiſtrate of ſuch County, whether within ſuch Barony or Half Barony or within the County at large: And if any ſuch Conſtable or Conſtables ſhall neglect or refuſe to obey as aforeſaid, or ſhall be guilty of any violation of duty, he or they ſhall be liable to ſuch Penalty not exceeding Forty Shillings each, to be levied by the diſtreſs and ſale of the goods of ſuch party, by order of the Juſtices at the General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace for ſuch County, or ſuch impriſonment in the Common 3 Gaol not exceeding one month, as the ſaid Juſtices, after examination and

proof

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proof upon oath of one or more credible witneſs or witneſſes, which Oath they are hereby empowered to adminiſter, or on confeſſion of the party, ſhall direct; or ſhall and may, at the deſire of the Grand Jury of ſuch County, be removed from his office by the Judge of Aſſize.

And be properly armed.

AND for the better preventing of Offences, and the more ſpeedily apprehending of Offenders, and aſſiſting in executing the Laws; BE it Enacted, That ſuch Conſtables ſhall be provided with proper arms and accoutrements; the expence whereof, not exceeding three Guineas for each Conſtable, once in twelve years if neceſſary, ſhall be raiſed and levied by preſentment of ſuch Grand Juries, on ſuch Baronies and Half Baronies for which ſuch Conſtables ſhall be appointed or continued by this Act.

Firſt being certified to be fit Perſons for the Office;

And be it Enacted, That no perſon ſhall be appointed to fill the office of Conſtable under this Act, unleſs he ſhall previouſly have obtained a Certificate from three Juſtices of the Peace reſident in the ſame Barony or Half Barony as the perſon recommended; or if there be not three Juſtices of the Peace ſo reſident, then from three Juſtices of the Peace of the ſame County; ſignifying that the perſon ſo certified is in every reſpect qualified to diſcharge the duties of a Chief or Sub-Conſtable (as the caſe may be) as required by the Act and the Law of the Land.

And having taken the following Oath;

And be it Enacted, That no perſon ſhall execute the office of Chief or Sub-Conſtable under this Act, unleſs he ſhall take the following Oath:

"I do ſwear, That I will truly and faithfully ſerve our Sove-
"reign Lord the King in the office of Conſtable or Chief Conſtable
"[*as the caſe may be*] of the Barony or Half Barony [*as the caſe*
"*may be*] of in the County of
"without favour or partiality, malice or ill-will; that I will pay
"due attention to, and uſe my endeavours for the preſervation of
"the Highways and Bridges, and the removal of obſtructions,
"nuiſances, and encroachments thereon, and that I will diligently
"enforce the laws for the preſervation of the ſame, ſo long as I
"ſhall continue in that Office."

Salaries to be paid them;

And be it Enacted, That the Grand Jury of each County at large ſhall be and are hereby empowered to preſent at each Aſſizes, any ſum not exceeding Pounds for every ſuch Conſtable, to be raiſed on every ſuch Barony or Half Barony wherein ſuch Conſtable ſhall be appointed or continued, to be paid to ſuch Conſtable, or to the Chief Conſtable for his uſe, by the Treaſurer; as alſo a ſum not exceeding Pounds for the ſalary of the Chief Conſtable of ſuch Barony or Half Barony.

Firſt producing Certificates of Juſtices.

Provided always, and be it Enacted, That no Salary whatſoever ſhall be preſented for or paid to ſuch Conſtable or Chief Conſtable, unleſs he firſt produce a certificate of the Juſtices who preſided at the General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace held for that diſtrict next preceding the ſaid Aſſizes, or of three Juſtices of the Peace reſident within the ſame Barony or Half Barony, [*as the caſe may be*] as the ſaid Chief Conſtable or Conſtable; or if three Juſtices of the Peace be not ſo reſident, then of ſuch three Juſtices of the Peace as ſhall at the ſame time certify that they are well acquainted with the conduct of ſuch Chief Conſtable or Conſtable; which certificate ſhall ſtate that he had faithfully executed the duties of his office, and that he had preſerved his arms and accoutrements in proper order, or accounted

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accounted ſatisfactorily for any deficiency therein; and that the Judge of Aſſize may then and not before ſiat ſuch Preſentment.

Perſons ordered to aſſiſt in conveying Felons to Priſon, to be paid according to the diſtance.

And be it Enacted, That there ſhall and may be paid to and for every perſon, other than the ſaid Sworn Conſtables, who as Special or Aſſiſtant Conſtable armed with fire-arms, ſhall, by order of any Juſtice of the Peace of the ſame County, convey and ſafely lodge in Gaol any perſon or perſons charged with treaſon or felony under Mittimus of ſuch Juſtice, the ſum of three Pence per mile; which Sums may and ſhall be preſented by the Grand Jury, and paid by the Treaſurer in the ſame manner that other County charges are preſented and paid.

Such Sums not to be preſented without copy of Mittimus certified and Receipt for the Priſoners delivered.

Provided nevertheleſs, That no ſuch ſum or ſums ſhall be preſented, unleſs the perſon or perſons ſo employed as Special or Aſſiſtant Conſtable or Conſtables, ſhall produce a copy of the Mittimus under which ſuch perſon or perſons were committed, certified by the Gaoler, and alſo an acknowledgment in writing from ſuch Gaoler, that ſuch perſon or perſons was or were ſafely lodged with him; and provided the number of ſuch Aſſiſtant or Special Conſtables ſo to be paid, do not exceed ſix for any one commital.

Similar eſtabliſhments, ſo far as they exiſt, may be continued.

AND whereas in certain counties a ſimilar eſtabliſhment of Conſtables has for many years exiſted under certain Acts of His preſent Majeſty, part of which Acts are now expired; BE it Enacted, That all ſuch eſtabliſhments, together wth all preſentments made purſuant thereto, is and are hereby recognized and confirmed, notwithſtanding the Statute or Statutes purſuant to which the ſame was or were inſtituted has or have tranſpired; and that ſo often as the Chief or any Sub-Conſtable ſhall be diſmiſſed or fail by death or otherwiſe, another ſhall or may be appointed under the proviſions of this Act.

Grand Juries may reduce ſuch eſtabliſhments.

And be it Enacted, That in every County wherein ſuch eſtabliſhment exiſts or ſhall exiſt, it may be lawful, and it is hereby declared to be lawful, for the Grand Jury of ſuch County to reduce ſuch eſtabliſhment, in every ſuch particular as to ſuch Grand Jury ſhall appear to be expedient.

Act 32 of the King, for regulating the Office of Conſtable, repealed.

And be it Enacted, That an Act paſſed in *Ireland* in the thirty-ſecond year of His preſent Majeſty, intituled, "An Act for regulating the Office "of Conſtable, and for the better enforcing the Proceſs of the Criminal "Law in certain parts of this Kingdom," be and is hereby repealed.

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(Ireland.)

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B I L L

For the better regulating the Office of Conſtable, in *Ireland*.

Ordered, by The Houſe of Commons, *to be printed,*
24*th February* 1809.

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